

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
De La Cruz, et al.

Serial No.: 09/888,071

Confirmation No.: 6610

Filed: June 22, 2001

For: HIGH STRENGTH SPRAY  
METAL TUBULAR  
COUPLING

\*\*\*\*\*

Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: FLEMMING SAETHER

Customer No.: 36735

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FEB 19 2004  
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**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

# CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on Feb. 10, 2004 with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Feb. 10, 2004  
Date

Signature

**Dear Sir:**

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2003**

In response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 10, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0122/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper. **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.